

I'm writing to express concerns over the upcoming vote (June 2, 2003, to the best of my knowledge) regarding the possible elimination of restrictions on media ownership rules. While I am "just" a common citizen with unremarkable monetary or political clout, I believe that freedom and diversity of the press and other involved media would be adversely affected by allowing unfettered and monopolistic ownership of newspapers, radio stations and TV by a few soul-less corporate giants who have no ties to local community and would likely markedly decrease the diversity of opinions and points of view expressed by such media. Bigger is not always better, although those who support the status quo and believe that fiscal number crunching will lead to the optimal course of action would likely disagree. Independent voices in media will likely be restricted (if not silenced) by such a decision, and I'm (as an American citizen) expressing my strong opposition to such elimination of restrictions. I'm heartened that someone as savvy as Barry Diller sees the potential downsides of such action; I sincerely hope that others with social conscience and insight will also weigh in with similar opinions, as the diversity and freedom of the public media (emphasis on "public") is at stake.